

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-17 : (Cancelled)

Claim 18 : (New) A method of enabling marking of objects, comprising the steps of:

- a) forming stencils with cutouts arranged in marking patterns; and
- b) supplying the stencils to sites at which marking is to be performed by marking a selected one of the objects with a selected one of the marking patterns.

Claim 19 : (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the forming step is performed at a manufacturing site remote from the sites at which marking is performed.

Claim 20 : (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the forming step is performed by filling the cutouts with a fusible material.

Claim 21 : (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the forming step is performed by applying an adhesive layer on each stencil.

Claim 22 : (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the forming step is performed by overlying each stencil with a cover layer.

Claim 23 : (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the fusible material is one of a metal material, a metal oxide material, a ceramic material, and an alloy of said materials.

Claim 24 : (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the forming step is performed by forming the cutouts as sequential numbers.

Claim 25 : (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the forming step is performed by forming the cutouts as a logo.

Claim 26 : (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the sites at which marking is performed are jewelers premises, and wherein the objects are gemstones.

Claim 27 : (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the gemstones are diamonds.

Claim 28 : (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the filling step is performed at a manufacturing site.

Claim 29 : (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the filling step is performed at the sites at which marking is performed.